

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 L-03

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SCI-06 AGR-20 HEW-08 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOTE-00

AID-20 INT-08 RSR-01 /124 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8990

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY

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E O 11652: ADS, DECLAS 12/31/74

TAGS: CO, PN, EAGR

SUBJ: U S - COLOMBIA FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AGREEMENT SIGNED

SUMMARY: U S AND GOC OFFICIALS SIGNED AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT
TODAY TO COOPERATE IN A PROGRAM TO PREVENT SPREAD OF FMD FROM
COLOMBIA IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY.

1. FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE BUT FRIENDLY NEGOTIATIONS
U S AND COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS SIGNED AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT AUG
18 TO COOPERATE IN A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE
FMD IN CERTAIN PORTIONS OF N W COLOMBIA AND TO PREVENT THE DISSEM-
INATION OF THIS DISEASE FROM COLOMBIA TO AFTOSA FREE AREAS.
TEXT BEING HANDCARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY DEL. DR RAFAEL MARINO,
GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICA)
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SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF MINAG (WHO DEPARTED BOGOTA

EARLY THIS MORNING AND DEPUTY ASST SECY SZABO AND ASST SECY YEUTTER SIGNED ON BEHALF OF U S.

2. UNDER TERMS OF AGREEMENT MIN OF AGRICULTURE (MOA) AND USDA AGREED THAT ICA WILL ADMINISTER AND EXECUTE THE FMD MEASURES RECOMMENDED BY THE COLOMBIA U S JOINT TECH TEAM REPORT OF JUNE 14/73 AND WILL COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER COLOMBIAN AGENCIES IN THE PROGRAM. THE ICA GEN MANAGER WILL APPOINT A FULL TIME DIRECTOR TO ADMINISTER, CONTROL AND SUPERVISE THE PROGRAM AND USDA WILL PROVIDE A SENIOR TECH ADVISOR (STA). "THE GEN MANAGER OF ICA, THE DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM AND THE SENIOR TECH ADVISOR WILL COOPERATE WITH RESPECT TO THE TECH AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. THE STA AND OTHER USDA PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM SHALL HAVE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM, HAVE ACCESS TO ALL INFO AND FACILITIES RELATIVE TO THE PROGRAM AND TRAVEL FREELY IN AREAS IN WHICH THE PROGRAM WILL BE CARRIED ON." A SENIOR REVIEW GROUP CONSISTING OF THE DIRECTOR, STA AND THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY MOA AND USDA EACH WILL MEET AT LEAST SEMI-ANNUALLY TO REVIEW RESULTS, PROVIDE PROGRAM GUIDANCE AND REVIEW WORK PLANS AND BUDGETS.

3. THE AGREEMENT COMMITS THE USDA TO PROVIDE, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, UP TO \$7.8 MILLION OVER 5 YEARS TO SUPPORT PROGRAM COSTS, EXCLUDING USDA PERSONNEL COSTS AFTER FIRST YEAR, WITH \$2.0 TO BE OBLIGATED UPON AGREEMENT'S ENTRY INTO FORCE. U S FINAN CONTROL WILL BE EXERCISED THROUGH APPROVAL OF AN ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET AND THROUGH QUARTERLY REIMBURSEMENT TO A PESO REVOLVING FUND BY THE STA, BASED ON PROGRAM TARGETS.

4. DURING NEGOTIATIONS, PRES OF CHOCO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MADE EMOTIONAL APPEAL FOR A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO COMPENSATE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST CHOCO FOR THE SOCIAL COSTS STEMMING FROM IMPLEMENTING THE AGREED MEASURES, MOST NOTABLY THE PROHIBITION ON ROADS FROM THE CHOCO CONNECTING WITH THE DARIEN HIGHWAY, THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE FROM CATTLE-FREE AREAS AND CONTROLS ON CATTLE RAISING IN THE "THUMB." MARINO SUPPORTED NEED FOR PERHAPS \$1-1.5 MILLION PROGRAM TO MAKE FMD AGREEMENT AND MEASURES POLITICALLY MORE PALATABLE, ESPECIALLY TO N W CHOCO POPULATION. DELEGATION CHAIRMAN SZABO RESPONDED BY STATING THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED COMMIT USG TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN CHOCO, BUT THAT USG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD CONSIDER MATTER AND MAKE AN EARLY REPLY, ADDING THAT EXISTING AID SECTOR LOANS FOR HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION ALREADY BENEFIT CHOCO TO DEGREE. FURTHER, IF GOC SO DECIDED, IT COULD INCREASE CHOCO REGION'S SHARE OF DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES IN CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. IN LATER INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH VALLEJO AND MARINO, SZABO REITERATED THESE POINTS AND SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS SOME ELEMENTS OF U S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FMD SUCH AS FUNDS FOR RELOCATION OF PEOPLE AND FOR IMPORTATION OF CATTLE

FROM NON-FMD AREAS COULD BE STRUCTURED AND PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS. VALLEJO, MARINO AND OTHER GOC OFFICIALS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS THIS AGREEMENT COULD ENTAIL FOR GOC AND ALTHOUGH VALLEJO INDICATED SUCH PROBLEMS PROBABLY MANAGABLE A MODERATE-SIZED "DEVELOPMENT" ARRANGEMENT IN THE FMD PROGRAM WOULD HELP DIFFUSE POLIT OPPOSITION AND FACILITATE FINAL RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT, WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED TO GOC FONMIN AND PLANNING MIN. DEL AND EMB DO NOT VIEW THIS AS SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO FINAL AGREEMENT, BUT SUBJECT ALMOST CERTAINLY BOUND TO ARISE AGAIN.

5. FOLLOWING SIGNATURES, SZABO SUGGESTED EARLY EFFORT TO INITIATE SOME MEASURES NOTWITHSTANDING AGREEMENT NOT YET IN EFFECT. DR MARINO SAID REQUEST TO INDERENA BOARD FOR ESTABLISHMENT LOS KATIOS NATIONAL PARK SHOULD OCCUR SHORTLY AND HOPED PARK WOULD BE DECREED PRIOR TO FINAL APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT. DR ESTUPINAN DESCRIBED A NUMBER OF OTHER STEPS NEEDED PROMPTLY AND IT WAS AGREED THAT USDA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING IF POSSIBLE, U S CANDIDATE FOR THE USDA TEAM WOULD MEET AT AN EARLY DATE WITH DR ESTUPINAN TO DISCUSS WORK PLAN AND BUDGET AND INITIAL MEASURES.

6. CONCLUSION. DEL IS PLEASED MOA ACCEPTED CENTRALIZATION OF ADMIN CONTROL IN ICA WITH EXPLICIT AND SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT OF USDA ADVISORS. THIS SETS THE STAGE FOR AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM PERMITTING RESUMPTION OF DARIEN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION BUT THERE IS NO ILLUISON ON U S SIDE THAT SUCH PROGRAM WILL BE EASILY IMPLEMENTED, GIVEN THE DIFFICULT FIELD AND ADMIN CONDITIONS. THE FIRST REVIEW OF FMD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION TO OCCUR ABOUT 6 MONTHS AFTER AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE WILL PROVIDE A FIRM BASIS FOR DECISIONS ON FURTHER DARIEN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION. WHITE

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